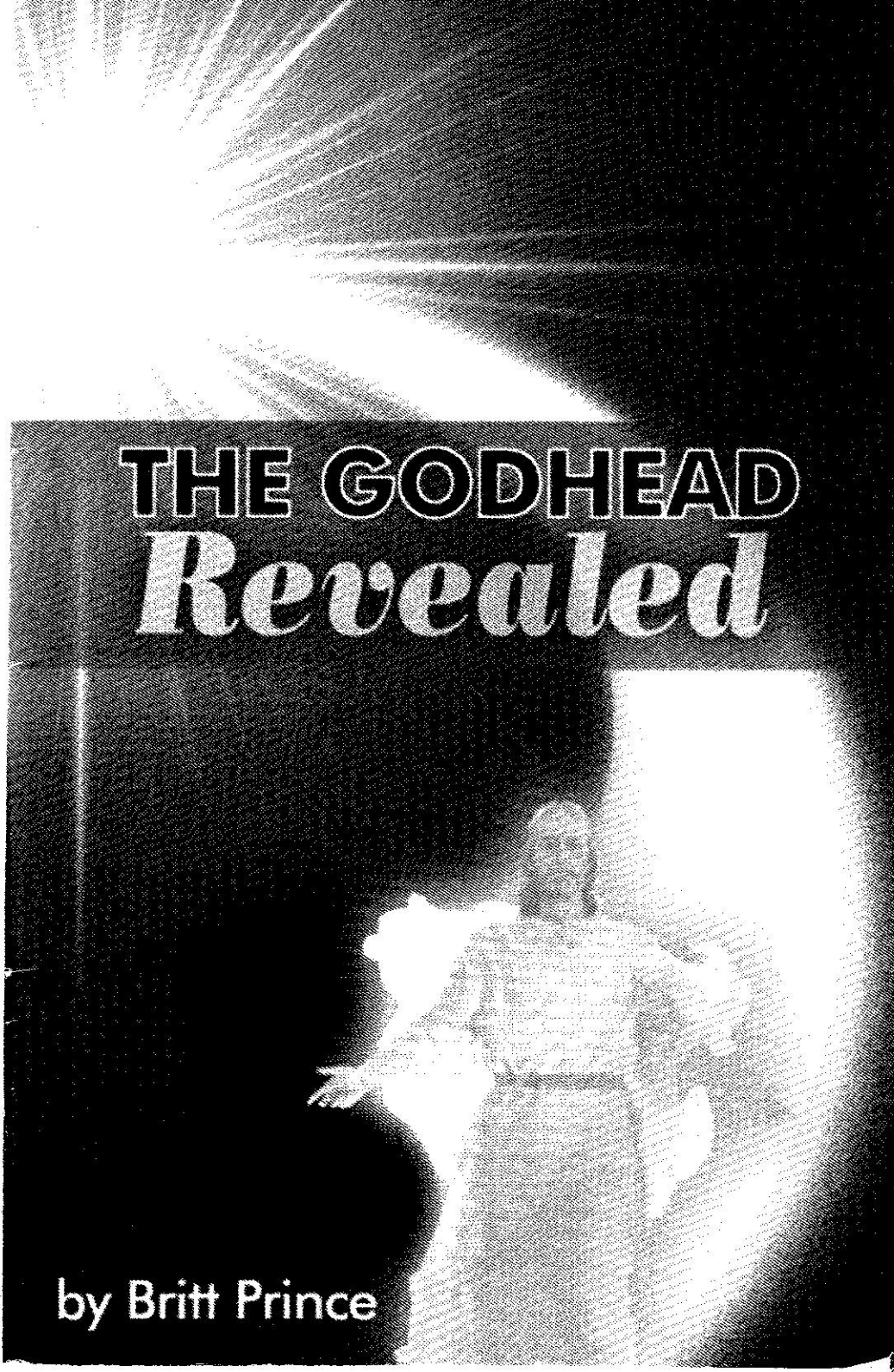
THE GODHEAD *Revealed*



by Britt Prince

The Godhead Revealed by Britt Prince

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The Godhead Revealed
Lesson 1

The Godhead is one of the most difficult, yet simplest subjects in the Bible to understand. Some of the greatest minds in our world have stumbled while others with less scholastic ability have understood it clearly.

Why?
Because God has hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed it unto babes *(Luke 10:21)*

God expects us to know who He is and to worship Him with understanding. The scriptures affirm that the Godhead is without excuse. *(Romans 1:20)*

Unfortunately, the subject of the Godhead has been greatly complicated by historical church creeds that were developed by church councils during the early days of church history. These creeds have left Christianity with a lack of understanding of the Godhead.

These councils and creeds are revered by many today as being infallible. Yet, a closer look would prove that their concept of God is non-Biblical.

Two views
Basically, there are only two views of the Godhead being taught in mainstream Christianity.

They are the **Oneness** (Monotheism) and the **Trinity.**

The Oneness doctrine teaches that there is one supreme eternal Spirit, known as the Father, who manifest Himself in flesh as the Son, Jesus Christ. God also manifest Himself as the Holy Spirit that comes to dwell inside of mankind. Thus, in short, God is the Father in creation, the Son in redemption, and the Holy Ghost in regeneration; Three manifestations of One God that operate simultaneously.

Modern oneness theology does not endorse much of earlier oneness theology since censorship was practiced and oneness documents were distorted and misrepresented by the bias victors of debates. Ancient

manuscripts were often changed (interpolations) by later copyists to support their doctrines.

The Trinity doctrine teaches that there are three persons in the Godhead, the names that are given to these three persons are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. Yet, they deny that they believe in three separate Gods (Tritheism).

In explaining their beliefs, proponents of the Trinity waffle between oneness terms and Tritheistic. Ultimately, they resort to stating that the Trinity is a mystery that our finite human minds cannot fully comprehend.

There is a division among those who profess to believe the Trinity. Some believe outright Tritheism while others believe the oneness but simply apply the term Trinity to their beliefs.

Let's evaluate both views closely:

Oneness view: Both Old Testament Jewish believers and New Testament oneness believers derive their beliefs from:

Deuteronomy 6:4

Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God is _____LORD:

Jesus declared, that this was ...*"the first of all the commandments"* (Mark 12:29)

Jesus further endorsed this concept in his conversation with a Samaritan woman.

John 4:22

Ye worship ye know not what, we know what we worship for salvation is of the Jews.

All of the Old Testament writers were oneness and had no concept of a trinity of persons in the Godhead. They were looking for their one God to manifest himself in the flesh and be their Messiah.

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name _____.

This was confirmed in Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child,

and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name _____, which being interpreted is, God with us.

The New Testament writers, most of them being Jews, had this same concept and expressed no thought of introducing a dramatic new revelation of a plurality in God.

The Old Testament teaches that God was coming in the flesh, and the New Testament teaches that God came in the flesh.

Isaiah 12:2-3

*2 Behold, God is my **salvation**; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my **salvation**.*
*3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of **salvation.***

The Hebrew for the word salvation in this text is *Yeshuah.* Scholars tell us that the word Yeshuah is better rendered in the English as Jesus.

Let's read it again and insert the word Jesus.

Isaiah 12:2-3

*2 Behold, God is my **Jesus;** I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my **Jesus.***
*3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of **Jesus**.*

The God of the Old Testament became the God of the New Testament.

What is God?

John 4: 24

God is a _____:

1 Timothy 1:17

Now unto the King **eternal, immortal**, _____, the only wise God...

1 Timothy 6:15–16

Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath _____, nor can _____:

God is an eternal, immortal, invisible Spirit that dwells in light.

What is Jesus Christ?

He is the visible body that the one supreme, invisible Spirit prepared for Himself to dwell in and He lived among us.

Hebrews 10:5

Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a _____hast thou prepared me:

Eph. 4:4

There is _____ body, and _____ Spirit...

There is one eternal Spirit known to us as the Father that dwelt in a body known to us as Jesus Christ.

Jesus was the visible image of the invisible God.

Colossians 1:15

Who is the image of the _____God, the firstborn of every creature:

John 1:18

No man hath _____God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

1 Timothy 6:16

...whom no man hath seen, nor can see...

The Father is an invisible Spirit that does not have a body, that makes himself visible in the body of Jesus Christ.

John 14:8–9

Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath _____ the _____; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

John 14:7

If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have _____Him.

The only way we will ever see the Father is to look into the face of Jesus Christ.

John 10:30

I and my Father are one.

The Spirit and the body are one! Therefore we can say, the Son is the Father and the Father is the Son.

Isa. 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting _____, The Prince of Peace.

The Son was the everlasting Father manifest in the flesh, Emanuel, God with us.

1 Timothy 3:16

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:_____ was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

The Almighty God was **incarnate** (made himself a body)

That's why Jesus Christ could declare himself to be the Almighty God.

Revelation 1:8

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the _____ (red letter edition)

God the Father (Spirit) dwelt in the Son(body) and was Emanuel, the Almighty God with us.

2 Corinthians 5:19

To wit, that God was ____ Christ, reconciling the world unto himself.

Colossians 2:9

For in him (Jesus) dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead _____.

Lesson 2
The Dual Nature:

To fully understand who Jesus Christ is, we must understand the dual nature of Christ. Both Oneness and Trinitarians agree on this point. Bishop Leo I of Rome called the Council of Chalcedon, A.D. 451 to define Orthodox Christology. He taught that "Christ has two natures but is only one person".

Jesus Christ had two natures; He was fully God and fully man. The Spirit in Him was divinity and the flesh was humanity.

The Bible refers to Jesus as being the "Son of God" and the "Son of man".

The Son of God refers to His **deity**, while the son of man refers to His **humanity**.

The Bible never calls Jesus, **God the son**.

This terminology would indicate a second person or deity in the Godhead.

When we read a statement about Jesus, we must determine if it describes Jesus as a man or as God. Moreover, whenever Jesus speaks in scripture, we must determine whether He is speaking as a man or as God.

The Humanity:

As a man, Jesus was born as a baby, grew in stature and in wisdom, was tempted, hungered, thirsted, grew weary, slept, was limited in power and knowledge, prayed, was scourged, beaten, was inferior to God, was a servant, died on a cross.

The Deity:

As God, He existed from eternity, never changes, cast out devils, miraculously fed multitudes, calmed the storm, answered prayers, healed the sick, forgave sins, knew all things, had all power, was God, was King of kings, was the Almighty, raised His own body from the dead.

Understanding the different natures of Christ helps us to understand the different roles that He played. He was God and man at the same time.

The contrast:

As a man, He slept in the bottom of the boat. As God, He calmed

the storm. As man, He was hungry and thirsty. As God, He fed the multitude, cast out devils, healed the sick and spoke great words.

John 14:10-11

Believest thou not that I am in the Father and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

The miracles He performed and the words He spoke were not of the humanity, but of the Spirit.

That's why Jesus could forgive sins (Mark 2:5-10)

Jesus also spoke as deity to the thief on the cross and said, *"Today, shalt thou be with me in paradise."* Deity forgives sin, not humanity.

In the final hours of the life of Jesus, He prayed in the garden, *"Not my will, but thine be done."*

The flesh prayed to the Spirit. Humanity prayed to deity, not one person in the Godhead praying to another, nor one God praying to another.

When Jesus died on the cross, the humanity cried out in pain and gave up the ghost (Spirit).

God did not die on the cross. God is an eternal Spirit that cannot die. The humanity died.

Neither did the second person in the Godhead die. That would be part of God dying.

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one _____ and one _____ between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus...

Conclusion: Jesus was fully God and fully man.

Three manifestations

Now that we understand the dual nature of Christ, we must also understand that God has manifest Himself as the Holy Ghost.

God the Father is an omnipresent Spirit that has manifest himself to us as our heavenly Father.

He has also manifest himself to us in a bodily form as the Son, Jesus Christ.

He also manifests himself to us by allowing us to feel His presence and by filling us with his Spirit, that is known as the Holy Ghost.

God has manifest Himself as the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Three manifestations, but the same Spirit.

The Holy Ghost is not a separate Spirit from the Father..

1 Corinthians 12:13

For by _____ _____ are we baptized into one body...

Ephesians 4:4 says there is only *"one Spirit"*

Conclusion: There is only one Spirit (Father) that manifests Himself as the Son and as the Holy Ghost.

How many thrones in heaven?

When we get to heaven, will there be three thrones, or one?

First, there is not a little old gray-haired man in heaven known as the Father.

God is a Spirit, no man hath seen him at any time nor can see him. The Father does not have a body. Since the Father does not have a body, He won't need a throne.

Who will Jesus sit next to?

Mark 16:19

So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

The Jews traditionally have understood that the right hand of God speaks metaphorically of a place of power.

Mark 14:62

And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of _____, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Colossians 2:10

And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and _____.

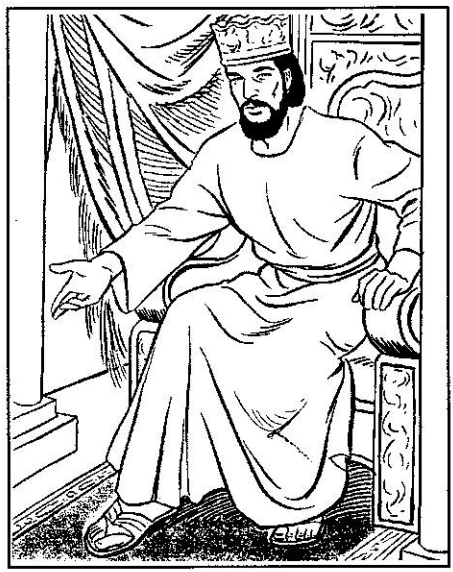
Where will Jesus sit?

Since Jesus has the only body, He will need a throne.

Let's look at a passage that refers to the throne of God.

Revelation 4:2

And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, _____***throne*** *was set in heaven, and* _____***sat on the throne.***



Who will sit on that throne?

Revelation 4:8

...and they rest not day and night, saying Holy, holy, holy, Lord God ***Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.***

Jesus used this same terminology when he declared of Himself in...

Revelation 1:8

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Do Angels behold the face of God?

Matt 18:10

Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

Remember God is a Spirit. Jesus said, spirits don't have flesh and blood (Luke 24:39). The Greek word for behold here can be literal or figurative. Jesus was speaking figuratively.

Will the Holy Ghost sit on the other side?

Since the Holy Ghost is God's Spirit and spirits do not have bodies. The Holy Ghost won't need a throne either.

There is only one God and only one throne in heaven. Jesus Christ will be the only image of God we will ever see.

Rev 22:3-4

3... but the throne of God and of the _____ shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:
4 And they shall see _____face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

What about the Lamb taking the book out of the right hand of the one on the throne in Rev. 5:1-7?

Most of the book of Revelation is symbolic.

This is not a literal scene, because Rev. 22:3 said, the Lamb was in the throne. The Lamb cannot be in the throne and standing before the throne.

The right hand is symbolic of power, referring to deity. The lamb is symbolic of the man Christ Jesus, referring to humanity.

The Trinity:
Lesson 3

Now that we have an understanding of oneness, let's look at the Trinity.

The Trinity is the belief that there are three persons in one God. The names that are given to these three persons are God the Father, **God**

the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

The problem with the Trinity is a matter of semantics, the terms used to explain it, are non-Biblical.

First, we must note that the term Trinity is not found in the Bible.

Second, the terminology "God the Son" is not found in the Bible. Jesus is referred to as the Son of God or the Son of man (dual nature), but never God the Son (a person in the Godhead).

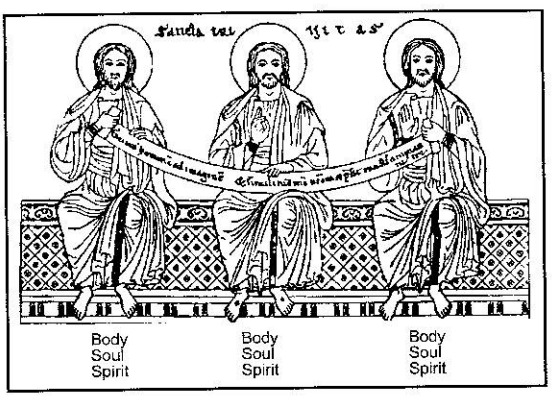
Third, the term "person" is not a Biblical term in relation to Deity. Jesus is the only person in the Godhead.

Webster defines "person" as an individual human being.

God is not a human being. He is the Supreme Being.
Humans have a spirit, soul (mind), and body (1Thess.5:23).

God is a Spirit. No man hath seen Him at any time, neither can see Him. Why? Because the Father does not have a body. Therefore, the Father cannot be referred to as a person.

Finis Dake, a prominent Bible annotator and Trinitarian stated, "What we mean by Divine Trinity is that there are three separate and distinct persons in the Godhead, each one having His own **personal spirit body, personal soul, and personal spirit** in the same sense that each human being, angel or any other being has his own body, soul, and spirit." [1]



Catholic Depiction Of The Trinity

First, there is no scripture to support such a thing as a **spirit body.**

Second, the phrase **personal spirit**, would mean there are three spirits in the Godhead.

Ephesians 4:4 sums up both, *"there is one Spirit and one body".*

There are neither three Spirits nor three bodies.

Colossians 2:9

For in Him (Jesus) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

Third, **personal soul** would indicate that there are three minds or three distinct centers of consciousness in God. This leads to the concept of a committee in God. We will deal with this later in our discussion of the Logos.

Now, we can at least understand that there are not three Spirits or bodies in the Godhead. Therefore, there cannot be three persons, because it takes a body and a spirit to constitute a person.

Person or Persons

Jesus Christ is the only "person" in the Godhead because He is the only one with a body.

Hebrews 1:3

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person...

Notice the word person is singular, not plural; not three persons but one person.

It is not saying that the Father is a separate person with a separate body, but that Jesus Christ is the only person with the only body in the Godhead. He is the image of the invisible God (Col.1:15)

The Greek word for "person" in Heb.1:3 is *hypostasis* (singular) it means substance or essence.

The Greek word *ousia* also means substance.

These two words are synonymous.

The Cappadocian Trinity

There were three prominent theologians from Cappadocia that aided Athenasius and furthered the Athenasian trinity. They changed the word *hypostasis* (singular) in Heb. 1:3 to *hypostases* (plural) and they also replaced the word Hypostasis for *ousia.*

Thus the phrase, "three *hypostases* (persons) in one *ousia* (substance).

This is the orthodox definition of trinitarianism today, and it is equivalent to Tertullian's Latin formulation of "three *personae* in one *substantia".*

By changing the word *hypostasis*, which means substance, to three *hypostases*, they are actually teaching three substances or deities in one substance. That is utter confusion!

The word "manifest" is a better word than "person" in relation to God. Three manifestations would be more logical than three persons.

1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

Three what? Persons or manifestations.

1 Timothy 3:16
God was _____ in the flesh...

The only other verse that speaks of God as a person is found in Job. Job asked a very pointed question:

Job 13:7-8
7 Will ye speak wickedly for God? and talk deceitfully for him?
8 Will ye accept his _____? will ye contend for God?

Which will you accept, one person or three persons?

Another Trinitarian

Let's look at what another Trinitarian says about each person in the Godhead having a personal soul (three minds)

Jimmy Swaggart, a Trinitarian, stated, "You can think of God the Father, **God the Son**, and God the Holy Ghost as three different persons exactly as you would think of any three other people, their oneness

pertaining strictly to their being one in purpose, design, and desire." [2]

First, notice the unbiblical terminology, "God the Son". Second, notice that he relates God to a person. This would indicate that God has three bodies, three spirits and three minds. Third, he suggests that there are three separate minds that have one purpose, design and desire.

A committee that always agrees? This is a mystery.

The Logos:

Catholic Depiction Of The Trinity

God does not reason with three different centers of consciousness in the Godhead, over His plans and purpose.

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father.)

Trinitarians suggest that the Son was with the Father as a separate person, from eternity (the eternal Son-ship).

Notice in the text, It did not say the son was **eternal,** but **begotten**.

Begotten means that Jesus did not have a body or spirit body before he was born.

Eternal means that he did have a body or spirit body before he was born.

The Greek term for Word is Logos. It literally means thought or plan.

That means that Jesus Christ was not with the Father in a bodily form nor as a spirit body but as a thought or plan in the mind of God.

Let's insert the word **Plan** instead of the word **Word** in the text and see how it reads:

John 1:1
In the beginning was the plan, and the plan was with God, and the plan was God.

God's thoughts and plans are not separate persons from himself, just as our thoughts and plans are not a separate person from us.

God cannot be separated from His thoughts.

John 1:14
*and the **plan** was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father)...*

It's hard to believe that three persons in the Godhead agreed to send one of those persons to die on the cross.

It's even harder to believe that the Father so loved the world that He sent His Son. Why did He not come Himself if He loved us so much? The truth is, He did.

1 Timothy 3:16
"God was manifest in the flesh"

Conclusion: There are not three persons with three separate minds reasoning together in the Godhead. If there is one Spirit (God) and one body (Jesus) where would three minds reside?

Conversations in the Godhead

The creation
Genesis 1:26
*And God said, Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness:*

Does this mean there are three persons in the Godhead with three minds and three wills that reason together...

Or is there one God with one mind that reasons with Himself?

Ephesians 1:11

*In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the **purpose** of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his _____ will:*

By analogy, this is similar to a man saying, "Let us see" while planning by himself. The **plan** was in the mind of God in the beginning and was made manifest.

When God created man, he created man in the image of Jesus Christ, because Jesus is the image of God (11Cor.4:4, Col.1:15, Heb.1:3).

Jesus was the lamb slain before the foundation of the world. (Rev 13:8)

Romans 4:17

*...even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which **be not** as though they were.*

The Hebrew word for God is *elohim* which is plural, but when used with the plural pronouns "us" and "our" in Gen.1:26 it means a plural of excellence or majesty not a plural of persons or minds.

Flanders and Cresson explains "the Hebrews Pluralized nouns to express greatness or majesty and not to indicate plurality.[3]

It is also known as a literary plural, in formal speaking and writing the speaker or writer often refers to himself in the plural, especially if the speaker is of Royalty.

In reconciling Gen. 1:26 with verse 27 it is simple to see that the plural pronoun agrees with the plural noun Elohim.

Tower of Babel
Genesis 11:7

Go to, "let us" go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

The tower of Babel is given the same treatment. God counsels with His own will (Ephesians 1:11).

The Jews have traditionally interpreted these verses (Genesis 1:26, 11:7) to mean that God talked with angels.

Although, the Jews did not have the New Testament to give a clear understanding that God does not counsel with angels, but rather He counsels with His own will.

The Baptism of Christ
Luke 3:21-22

21 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, 22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

The voice from heaven is the Father (Spirit). Jesus is the body. The Holy Ghost was revealed in a bodily shape like a dove. This is not referring to three persons in the Godhead, but three manifestations of one God.

Likewise, the prayer in the garden and on the cross are not between persons, but between the two natures of Christ.

Note: The Holy Ghost is never a part of the conversation, indicating the dual nature of Christ, not three persons.

Greetings in Corinthians:
2 Corinthians 1:2

Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, ***and*** *from the Lord Jesus Christ.*

The word "and" is the Greek word *Kai.* It can also be translated as "even", or "which is the same as"

Let's insert the word "even" into the text.

2 Cor 1:2 Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, **even** from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now let's insert the words "which is the same as"

2 Cor 1:2 Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, **which is the same as** from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Note: The greetings never mention the Holy Ghost, indicating the dual nature of Christ, not three persons.

Conclusion: Jesus Christ is the only person in the Godhead because he had a Spirit, mind, and body. Furthermore, there is only one body and one Spirit in the Godhead. Therefore, there cannot be three minds reasoning together.

Historical Creeds

Lesson 4

To understand why modern Trinitarians believe like they do, let's look at some excerpts from the original creeds.

The Original Nicene Creed

(Supposedly developed at the Council of Nicea; 325 AD) "The original document does not exist, the creed that is called Nicene was roughly formulated at a synod in Alexandria in 362.[4]

"We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of all things visible and invisible, and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the son of God, begotten of the Father, the only begotten, that is, of the **essence** [*ousia*] of the Father, **God of God**, light of light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of **one substance** *[homoousios] with the father...*" "...But the Holy and Apostolic church (Catholic) anathematizes (excommunicates) those who say that there was a time when He was not, and that He was made from things not existing, or from another person or being, saying that the son of God is **mutable**, or changeable." [5]

First, does "God of God" mean they believe in more than one God?

Second, they wrestled with the words 'essence' and 'substance.' The Greek word, *homoousios,* which means Christ is of the "same essence" of the Father, and the Greek word *homoiousios* which means Christ was "of like essence" of the Father.

It's easy to see that there was a problem with semantics.

Third, "mutable" in the context of this creed means that Christ has existed from eternity somehow, whether as a separate spirit or spirit body is not indicated, and has never changed.

This forbids (excommunicates) anyone from believing that Jesus was a plan in the mind of God that became manifest in flesh.

The Athenasian Creed
(Date and author unknown), originated during the Augustinian era, Fifth Century. Athenasius was not the author.

"Whoever will be saved: before all things it is necessary that he hold the **Catholic Faith**. Which Faith except everyone do keep whole and undefiled: without doubt he will **perish everlastingly**. And The Catholic Faith is this: that we worship one God in trinity, and Trinity in Unity. Neither confounding the **Persons**; nor **dividing the Substance**. For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one..."

"...And in this Trinity **none is afore, or another after another:** none is the greater or less than another. But the whole three Persons are **co-eternal** together, and **co-equal.** So that in all things, as is aforesaid, the Unity in trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshiped. **He therefore that will be saved must thus think of the Trinity...".** [6]

First, the phrase 'nor dividing the substance' agrees with the 'one substance' statement of the Nicene Creed.

Second, the 'Co-eternal' phrase and the statement "none is afore or after another," supports their eternal son-ship and not the begotten son-ship.

Third, 'Co-equal' means that these three persons have the same amount of power. If they were co-equal in power, why did Jesus pray to the Father (subordinationism) By definition, God is omnipotent and is subject to no one.

This is the mystery of the trinity, one person in the Godhead praying to another.

The dual nature fits better, the Son (humanity) prayed to the Father (deity).

The most daring statement is that a person cannot be saved unless they keep the Catholic faith whole and undefiled. The Pope still states this today publicly and in Catholic schools they still pray for non-Catholics that are lost.

The New Catholic Encyclopedia states that in the second century A.D. "A Trinitarian solution was still in the future" and that Trinitarian Dogma "was not solidly established... prior to the end of the Fourth Century.

The Origins of the Trinity:

The Trinity dates back before the Church age.

Babylon:
Alexander Hislop, a Trinitarian scholar, asserts that the Babylonians worshiped one God in three persons and used the equilateral triangle as a symbol of this trinity. Their names were Father, Mother and Child.

Egypt:
Will Durant, a historian, traces the Trinity to ancient Egypt. They had two different trinities: The Father (Osiris), the Mother (Isis), and the Son (Horus). The other names were Ra, Amon, and Ptah.

Triangles and pyramids have always been symbolic of polytheistic societies. The pyramids of Egypt are still one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Moreover, triangles and pyramids are used in mysticism and witchcraft.

Eastern religions today have a trinity
Hinduism has a supreme trinity: Brahma, the creator, Shiva, the destroyer, Vishnu, the preserver. This trinity is represented by a statue of one God with three heads.

Buddhism also has the doctrine of a "triangle body" of trikaya, they also worship a three-headed statue of Buddha.

Taoism has a trinity of supreme gods: the Jade Emperor, Lao Tzu, and Ling Pao.

Greek Philosophy:

Archaic Triad
By the year 500 B.C., the Greek philosophers of the Roman Empire began to reduce the number of their gods to three, because they had too many to keep up with. These gods were Jupiter, Mars and Quirinus. This was known as the Archaic Triad, meaning old group of three.

Capitoline Triad
The Greeks later replaced the Archaic triad with the Capitoline triad. These gods were Jupiter, Juno, Minerva.

Plato, (427 - 347 BC) a Greek philosopher, began to mix philosophy, astrology, and mathematics, with theology.

He developed the **Timaeus** theory.

This theory teaches that the number three was near diagrammatical perfection and the equilateral triangle is perfect, and is the elemental earth form. Based on this theory, he furthered the concept of reducing the number of Greek gods to three. [7]

Greek philosophy, which comes from Greek mythology, teaches that the gods came to earth, interbred with mankind and created a race of heroes know as demi-gods. Some had the appearance of men and some half man and half animal.

Many polytheistic societies had similar beliefs. Such as the Egyptians.

These beliefs were prevalent during the times of the Apostles.

Paul and Barnabas were at Lystra, where Paul healed a lame man. The people fell down and worshiped the apostles and said, the gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. They called Barnabas "Jupiter" and Paul "Mercurius" (Acts 14:11-12)

Greek philosophy was referenced again when Paul preached at Mars Hill in Athens, Greece.

Acts 17:22-23

Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. 23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

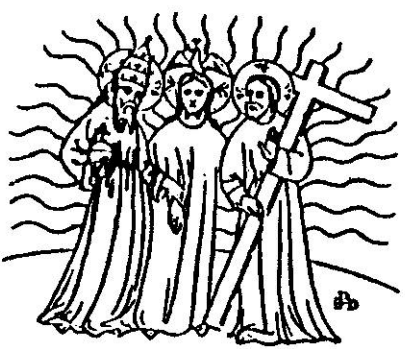
The Apostle Paul, being a one-God Jew and a one-God Christian, further taught them that they could not make an image of the one invisible God.

Acts 17:29-30 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. 30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

God is a Spirit. How can we paint His picture or carve His image?

Isaiah 40:18

To whom then will ye liken God? Or what likeness will ye compare unto him?



Catholic Trinity Depicted

Which one do Trinitarians pray to? These images depict persons in the Godhead and leans toward Tritheism.

Statue worship
Trinitarianism leads to the worship of more than three persons or Gods. They also bow down to statues of saints and pray to them.

The council of Nicea II, (787A.D.) endorsed the honoring of images not as devotion but as honor.

The Pagans that converted to Christianity, were accustomed to bowing before images and believed that the spirit of a god resided in the statues.

One Catholic bishop confessed, we don't pray to the statue, we pray to the spirit in the statue.

Which is worse?

Catholics propose that these statues have even healed them. Life Magazine (December 1999), pg 110. The statue of Mary supposedly healed a woman of cancer.

The first two commandments forbid this kind of idolatry.

Deuteronomy 5:7-9
7 Thou shalt have none other gods before me.
8 Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth:
9 Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, ...

Church History:
Lesson 5

- The Apostles (33 AD - 90 AD)

They were mostly One-God Jews. After the era of the apostles, who were One-God believers, Greek philosophy began to be merged with Christianity.

Paul warned:
Acts 20:29-30
29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.
30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

- Post Apostolic Fathers (90 -140 AD)

They were Greek and Latin Bishops that were well versed in Platonism and brought forward the Greek concept of the Trinity. Some of them were Clement of Rome, Ignatius, Polycarp, Shepherd Hermas, and Justin Martyr.

- Greek Apologists (130-180 AD)

One of them, Theophilus, used the words Triad and Tridos to describe his concept of God.

- Old Catholic Age (170-325 AD)

Tertullian, an Egyptian Lawyer (150-225) Plagiarized Theophilus and called it Trinitas. Later he coined the word Trinity. He was the first to use the formula, "una substantia et tres personae" (three persons in one substance).

Origen (died 254) followed the tradition of the Greek Apologist. He spoke of Christianity as the highest philosophy and stated that his purpose was to synthesize, or blend together, the Bible and Greek philosophy.[8]

Athenasius, a Catholic deacon from Alexandria Egypt furthered Tertullian's Trinity.

Constantine and the Roman Empire

Constantine was concerned about the rapid growth of Christianity. He feared that it would destroy his polytheistic Empire.

Constantine even had a statue of the sun god bearing his own features, in the city of Constantinople.[9]

Athenasius convinced Constantine that he could harness the rapid growing Christianity and that Constantine could be the Pontiff Maximus over it. Constantine favored Athenasius and made him a Bishop.

Constantine then made the Catholic Church, Rome's "official church", a state agency. He further decreed that no one could hold a political office unless they were a member of the Catholic church.

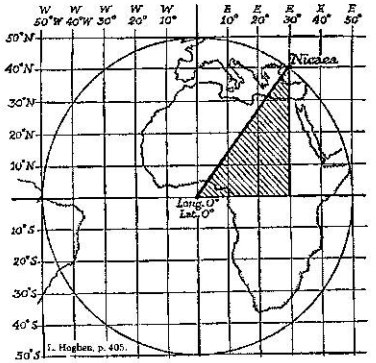
Athenasius began to debate Arius, a clergyman from Alexandria (300-325 AD) After many debates Constantine called a council to settle the issue.

The council was held at Nicaea Turkey, it convened on the 20th of May

325 AD. (The Trinity Godhead and the Trinity Baptismal formula were developed there.)

Why the city of Nicaea?
It had been the hotbed of Greek philosophy for many years. It was also chosen because of it's unique geographical location.

It is located where the Greenwich Meridian at 0 degrees longitude crosses the equator at 0 degrees latitude. Mariners call it the center of the globe. The longitude and latitude create a right angle with the top being at Nicaea Turkey.



Nicaea was a city in the country of Turkey. It was known in the days of the apostles as Bithynia.

God would not allow Paul and Timothy to go to Bithynia. Apparently, God did not want these One-God believers mixed up with the Greek Philosophy of Nicaea.

Acts 16:7

After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

Nicaea was also a place of luxury and worldliness for Catholic hierarchy. Constantine provided the Bishops with much sensual pleasure during leisure hours.

Constantine stated, if he saw a bishop committing adultery, he would throw his imperial robe over the unlawful act, lest any should witness the scene.

The council consisted of four weeks of deliberations full of arguing, debating and fist fighting. Most of the debate itself was a struggle over

terminology. Some of the bishops spoke Greek and some spoke Latin. Their terms did not have the same meaning.

In spite of the semantics problems, the Trinity doctrine that was developed at Nicaea was accepted as infallible, and became dogma.

Constantine told his bishops, "Some are won by the prospect of obtaining the means of subsistence, others of gaining influence with the great, some by presents, men will be disposed to Christianity (Catholicism) if they find they are promoting their worldly interests. Hold out temporal advantages as inducements to conversion.".

He further stated,
"Pains must be taken to convince them, that the worldly condition of a Christian is one to be delivered."

He further told his bishops, "Whether in pretense or in truth, let Christ be preached."

Constantine then instituted the inquisition of all heretics as an offense against the state.

Martin of Tours led his monks in destroying non-Catholic temples and baptizing by force into the Trinity formula.

They originally dipped the candidate three times, once for each member of the trinity.

Encyclopedia Britannica states, about trine baptism "these are clearly aetiological, and invented to explain an existing custom, which the church had adopted from its pagan medium." [10]

Rowe's History of the Christian people, states that heathen worshipers practiced threefold lustrations for purification.[11]

If they refused to be baptized in the trinity formula, they were tortured and killed.

Inquisitions
There were 10 major inquisitions against Christians by the pagan Emperors of Rome in the first three centuries. Then from the time of the Emperor Constantine and the development of the trinity, the Catholic church and some Protestant churches persecuted oneness believers as heretics. Here are some examples.

Gregory IX launched an inquisition during the 1100's-1200's. They tortured and burned at the stake all heretics that denied the Trinity.

Pope Innocent III in the early thirteenth century slaughtered twenty thousand men, women, and children in the town of **Beziers, France**, because it refused to surrender its heretics. This inquisition exterminated the Albigenses, and curtailed the Waldenses.

During the 1500's, another inquisition murdered countless heretics that denied the Trinity.

Michael Servetus- a oneness believer published his first book "On the Errors of the Trinity" in 1531. Servetus had correspondence with John Calvin about his beliefs and Calvin stated if Servetus ever came to Geneva, he'd never leave alive.[12]

Calvin encouraged the trying council to bring a capital sentence upon Servetus. He was sentenced to burn at the stake. Why? Because he was oneness and did not believe in the Trinity.[13]

Sebastian Castellio of Basel wrote a book condemning the actions of Calvin and went so far as to call Calvin a murderer, and stated that Calvin's Geneva was a sort of Protestant Rome with Calvin as Pope.[14]

Charles Tyndale (1492-1536) was burned at the stake on October 6, 1536, as a heretic after a Church trial. He was found guilty of translating the Bible into the language of the common people.

St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre in 1572 killed thousands of Protestants known as Huguenots in France.

It has been estimated that 68 million Christians have been put to death as heretics by the Catholic church throughout history.

Modern Trinity:

Historical Christianity has given us a Greek Philosophy called the Trinity. Even though it can neither be comprehended nor explained, it is still accepted by some as being infallible.

Beyond comprehension
"Basil's answer to this and any such difficulty was to declare that what was common to the three and what was distinctive among them lay beyond speech and comprehension and therefore beyond their analysis or conceptualization".[15]

The new Catholic Encyclopedia states,
"There is the recognition on the part of exegetes and Biblical theologians... that one should not speak of Trinitarianism in the New Testament without serious qualifications...New Testament exegesis is now accepted as having shown that not only the verbal idiom, but even the patterns of thought characteristic of the patristic (church fathers) and concilian (church councils) development would have been quite foreign to the mind and culture of the New Testament writers."

It has been passed from the Catholic Church to the mainstream Protestant Churches as a tradition.

Pope Gregory I, stated that **tradition** was equal with the scriptures, just as the Holy Spirit had inspired the writers of the scripture, so the Holy Spirit inspired the church fathers, councils, and popes to proclaim truth.

The council of Trent 1545 made an official declaration that **tradition** is equal to the teaching of the bible.

Colossians 2:8-9

Beware lest any man spoil you through _____ and vain deceit, after the _____ of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

Emil Brunner, Protestant Trinitarian theologian stated "The doctrine of the Trinity itself, however, is not a biblical doctrine and this indeed not by accident but of necessity. It is the product of theological reflection upon the problem... The ecclesiastical doctrine of the Trinity is not only the product of genuine biblical thought, it is also the product of **philosophical speculation,** which is remote from the thought of the Bible."[16]

It is a wonder how Protestant churches can embrace a doctrine that is not a bible doctrine and is tainted with so much Protestant blood.

Ecumenical Councils

All of the Historical councils were considered to be ecumenical councils, they were held in order to bring unity to beliefs and establish orthodoxy, and to eliminate heretics.

The Catholic Church today is a strong promoter of the Ecumenical movement (interfaithism).

The purpose is to lay aside doctrinal differences for the sake of unity.

As strange as it seems, there are many Protestant leaders that are rallying around the trinity doctrine and the creeds that came out of the early councils. They declare that the creeds of historic Christianity are the only thing we have in common and we must unite around them.

What should Christians do?

Rev 17:4-6 speaks of a great whore.

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:
5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.
6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

The Babylonian trinity became the Catholic trinity. The harlot then would be the Catholic Church and the daughters would be the Protestant churches that teach the trinity.

Rev 18:3-4 tells us what to do.

3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.
*4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*

Some modern Trinitarians make oneness statements.

Frank Stagg, a retired Southern Baptist seminary professor stated, "Jesus Christ is God uniquely present in a truly human life, but he is not a second God nor only one third of God...The Word which became flesh was God, not the second person of the Trinity with us. Emmanuel is God with us." [17]

W. A. Criswell, past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, stated, "We are not going to see three Gods in heaven...There is one great Lord God. We know him as our Father, We know him as our Savior, We know him as the Holy Spirit in our hearts. There is one God and this is the great God, called in the Old Testament, Jehovah, and incarnate, called in the New Testament, Jesus."[18]

These statements are purely Oneness.

Many Christians believe the oneness of God, they simply attach the term Trinity to their beliefs, not knowing and understanding what the Trinity actually teaches.

The doctrine of the Trinity has been re-written many times and is in the process of being re-written today. Why? Because it's terms are still not clear as to what it teaches.

Alister McGrath a member of the Oxford Faculty of Theology and lecturer at Wycliffe Hall asks, "How can God be three persons and one person at the same time?"

McGrath said, the word "person" has evolved and changed meanings over the centuries. The word person was originally derived from the Latin word "persona", meaning an actor's mask and, by extension, the role which an actor takes in a play. By stating that there are three persons, but only one God, Tertullian was asserting that all three major roles in the great drama of human redemption are played by the one and same actor-God.

McGrath continues, "Today when we talk about God as a person, we naturally think of God as being one person. So when we talk about God as one person, we mean one person in the modern sense of the word (one person), and when we talk about God as three persons, we mean three persons in the ancient sense of the word (three roles)".

McGrath further stated, "Confusing these two senses of the word person inevitably leads to the idea that God is actually a committee which is a thoroughly confusing way of thinking about God".[19]

Why don't they just throw out the unbiblical term of "persons" and use a biblical term such as "manifestations" and solve all the confusion?

President Thomas Jefferson made this observation:

"When we shall have done away with the incomprehensible jargon of the Trinitarian arithmetic, that three are one, and one is three, when we shall have knocked down the artificial scaffolding, reared to mask from view the very simple structure of Jesus; when, in short, we shall have unlearned everything which has been taught since his day, and get back to the pure and simple doctrine he inculcated, we shall then be truly and worthily his disciples."[20]

Oneness is simple to illustrate

The story is told of a young woman who received a ticket for speeding. When she went to court, the judge read the citation and inquired, "Guilty or not guilty?" She replied, "Guilty." The judge fined her $100.00. He then took off his robe, walked around in front of the podium, took out his wallet and paid the fine. What's the explanation? The judge was her father.

He loved her, yet he was a just judge and could not dismiss the fine. God cannot dismiss our penalty of sin, or He would not be just. So, He took off His royal robe and came Himself and paid our debt of sin.

Who knows how to illustrate the trinity?

What's the bottom line?

The bottom line is this, do you believe that the Godhead is a committee of persons or is Jesus Christ the only one person in the Godhead?

Luke 10:21

In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. 22 All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.

How has God revealed Himself to you?